

Message Text

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21

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: JA, US

SUBJECT: SUMMARY MEDIA COVERAGE LOCKHEED, FEB. 18

REF: TOKYO 2254

1. MARUBENI TESTIMONY: ALL FEB. 18 AM PRESS FRONTPAGES HEADLINED CATEGORICAL DENIALS BY TESTIFYING MARUBENI EXECUTIVES OF INVOLVEMENT IN LOCKHEED PAYOFFS. MARUBENI EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OKUBO AND ITOH CLAIMED THEY DID NOT KNOW MEANING OF WORDS "PEANUTS" AND UNITS" ON RECEIPTS THEY SIGNED FOR LOCKHEED. WHILE FEB. 17 TESTIMONY SAW NO NEW REVELATIONS, COMMOTION OCCURED IN DIET WHEN OKUBO GAVE DIFFERENT ACCOUNTS OF WHEN, WITH WHOM HE SIGNED RECEIPTS.

2. MARUBENI RESIGNATIONS: FEB. 18 AM PRESS ALSO FRONTPAGED POST-TESTIMONY RESIGNATIONS OF BOTH OKUBO AND ITOH FOR HAVING DAMAGED MARUBENI'S REPUTATION BY SIGNING DUBIOUS RECEIPTS.

3. REVELATION OF NAMES: FEB. 17 ANNOUNCEMENT BY PM MIKI OF PLAN TO SEND A SPECIAL ENVOY TO U.S. TO OBTAIN DATA ON LOCKHEED MIKI ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO URGING BY TANAKA FACTION'S SCANDAL ALSO RAN IN ALL PAPERS. KANEMARU FOR STRONGER LOCKHEED ACTION. NIHON KEIZAI QUOTED SOURCES AS

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SAYING EDUCATION MINISTER NAGAI, A NON-POLITICIAN, WOULD PROBABLY

BE SENT. MIKI WILL REPORTEDLY FORMALIZE DECISION IN FEB. 19 PRESS CONFERENCE. MOST PAPERS ALSO RAN STORY ON GOJ'S WASHINGTON CHARGE NISHIDA HAVING BEEN FELT OUT BY STATE DEPARTMENT ON RELEASE OF NAMES OF GOJ OFFICIALS IMPLICATED IN LOCKHEED BRIBES. STORIES REPORT NISHIDA AFFIRMING DESIRE FOR NAMES. AFTER GIVING BACKGROUND OF SEC APPEAL, WASHINGTON US DISTRICT COURT REFERRAL TO STATE DEPARTMENT, AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S OPPOSITION TO RELEASE STORIES, SAY MOFA SUPPOSES STATE DOES HAVE THE NAMES.

4. YOUNG LDP DIETMEN: NIHON KEIZAI AND TOKYO SHIMBUN RAN SMALL STORIES ON FEB. 17 MEETING OF ABOUT 35 YOUNG LDP DIETMEN ON LOCKHEED. RESULT OF MEETING WAS LETTER TO LDP SEC GEN NAKASONE REQUESTING TOUGHER INVESTIGATION OF LOCKHEED AFFAIR INCLUDING PRESSURE ON USG FOR NAMES OF OFFICIALS AND CALLING ON LOCKHEED'S KOCHAN FOR DIET TESTIMONY.

5. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS: FEB. 18 MEETING OF PROCURATOR GENERAL AND POLICE OFFICIALS TO PLAN COMBINED INVESTIGATION OF IMPLICATED FIGURES REPORTED IN ALL AM PAPERS. NOON NHK NEWS SAID SCRUTINY OF DIET TESTIMONY FOR PERJURY AND EVIDENCE PLUS TAX INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY.

6. OPPOSITION PLANS: AM NEWS AND PRESS COVERED FEB. 17 PM MEETING OF VICE CHAIRMEN OF FOUR OPPOSITION PARTIES' DIET POLICY COMMITTEES AT WHICH THEY AGREED TO PRESS MIKI FOR MORE DECISIVE INVESTIGATION OF LOCKHEED AFFAIR, SPECIFICALLY ON RECALLING OF WITNESSES AND ON OBTAINING TESTIMONY FROM KODAMA AND KOCHAN. ALSO REPORTED DECISION TO BOYCOTT BUDGET COMMITTEE FROM FEB. 18.

7. DIET BUDGET COMMITTEE: NOON NEWS HAD BUDGET COMMITTEE ACTIVITY COMPLETELY STOPPED DUE OPPOSITION BOYCOTT. ALSO REPORTED LDP SEC GEN NAKASONE AND CHIEF CABINET SEC. IDE CONFERRING ON HOW RESUME DELIBERATIONS ON BUDGET IN MIDST OF LOCKHEED AFFAIR.

8. MIKI MEETINGS: EVENING PRESS AND NEWS BROADCASTS HAVE ALSO REPORTED MIKI HOLDING INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS ALL DAY WITH VARIOUS CABINET MEMBERS CONCERNED WITH LOCKHEED AFFAIR. TV FOOTAGE HAS SHOWN CONTINUAL SCURRYING OF JUSTICE, FINANCE, FOREIGN MINISTERS AND STAFFS IN AND OUT OF PM'S OFFICE. EVENING PRESS ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTED FEB. 18 MEETINGS OF EACH LDP FACTION.

9. EDITORIALS: ALL PAPERS RAN EDITORIALS DEPLORING MARUBENI'S STONEWALL DENIALS AND URGING THOROUGH, COMPLETE INVESTIGATIONS. HODGSON

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